

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Renee Hoffman  
Phone: 919/733-5612

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES "CLICK IT OR TICKET" NABS 18,658 VIOLATORS**  
*Spring Campaign Encourages Seat Belt and Child Safety Seat Use*

**RALEIGH** — Gov. Mike Easley today announced that 18,658 drivers and passengers were cited for seat belt and child passenger safety violations during the spring "Click It or Ticket" campaign, which ran from May 21 until June 3. North Carolina's program serves as the national model for the federal seat belt enforcement and education campaign of the same name.

"Seat belts save lives, and I commend law enforcement officers from across the state for their hard work during this campaign," Easley said. "We want to encourage more North Carolinians to buckle up and keep their passengers and themselves safe."

The final statewide tally for the campaign includes a total of 17,208 seat belt citations and 1,450 child passenger safety citations. State and local law enforcement officers issued the citations during nearly 7,366 checkpoints and stepped-up patrols.

North Carolina's buckle-up rate for drivers and passengers is 88.5 percent, its highest rate ever. Nationally, nearly 19 percent of drivers and passengers still fail to wear their safety belt while driving or riding in a motor vehicle.

Counties with the highest occupant restraint charges include Mecklenburg (1,941), Wake (1,422) and Iredell (605).

In addition to cracking down on unrestrained drivers and passengers, officers across the state charged 2,057 motorists with driving while impaired. Officers issued a total of 6,835 criminal violations, including 1,763 drug charges, 110 stolen vehicles and 595 fugitives captured.

For county-by-county citation totals, visit the GHSP website at [www.ncdot.org/programs/GHSP/news](http://www.ncdot.org/programs/GHSP/news).

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